

MINUTES  
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES  
DECEMBER 14, 2001

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday, December 14, 2001, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 507 of the Education and Research Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

**Members present:** Brenda Collins, Sara Fox, Donald Green, Joanna Heidel, Veldore Heidelberg, Henry Hudspeth, David Marsh, Jimmy Murphy, George Walker, and Lawrence Warren.

**Staff in attendance:** Dr. Randall Bradberry, Becky Cade, Dr. Larry Day, Deborah Gilbert, Sandra Lucas, Jason Pugh, Danny Seal, Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Dr. Evelyn Webb, and Frankie Walton-White.

**Guests in attendance:** Dr. Bill Smith and Dr. Phil Pepper – IHL, Dr. George Huffman – Jones County Junior College, and Mr. Leon Bracey – Mississippi State Department of Education.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman George Walker called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m., and all guests present introduced themselves.

**PRELIMINARIES**

Brenda Collins gave the invocation.

**Approval of Minutes of the November 15-16, 2001, Board Meetings**

Upon a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Jimmy Murphy, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 15-16, 2001, meetings.

**Review and Approval of Agenda**

Upon a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Veldore Heidelberg, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

**REPORTS/ACTION**

**MACJC Report**

Dr. Randall Bradberry reported on the following items presented at the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) meeting on November 27, 2001:

Dr. Howell Garner reported on the activities of a committee appointed to work with the SBCJC to examine issues related to providing on-line workforce training programs via the Mississippi Virtual Community College (MSVCC). He made a recommendation that the Association approve the concept of utilizing MindLeaders as the vendor for the statewide system to provide workforce training. The Association approved the recommendation unanimously.

SBCJC Minutes: December 14, 2001

Dr. Howell Garner led the Association in a discussion about the sale of CMDS to Jenzabar. Currently seven colleges, Holmes, East Central, Southwest, Coahoma, Copiah-Lincoln, East Mississippi, and Mississippi Delta use this administrative software package. Jenzabar has instituted major turnovers. Dr. Garner stated that support for the software would end in July 2002, if agreements for the continuation of support services cannot be negotiated.

Dr. Olon Ray distributed a copy of a response to a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a strategic plan for Workforce Development in the State of Mississippi from Regional Technology Strategies, Inc., MDC Inc., and the Institute for Educational Leadership.

Dr. Ray announced that State Workforce Development Council Chairman, Mr. George Walker and member Mr. Joe Jones will hold meetings with editorial boards around the state to highlight the importance of workforce training and education.

Dr. Ray introduced Mr. Steve Halliburton who has been working with the SBCJC to look at ways in which efforts on training in community colleges and state funding could be better coordinated with Workforce Investment Act funds in order to best utilize funding to provide services.

Jason Pugh gave the Association an update on SBCJC distance learning programs. Mr. Pugh also reported on the activities of the Steering Committee in charge of preparing for a SAC's accreditation visit for the MSVCC Statewide System.

Dr. Evelyn Webb gave an update on the SBCJC e-audit program.

Dr. Howell Garner distributed a copy of an article he wrote about the MSVCC. He asked the presidents to review the article and welcomed their suggestions. He plans to submit the article to community and junior college journals for possible publication.

Dr. Garner reported on conversations with SACs representative, Dr. Jack Allen, with regard to the MSVCC SAC's statewide system accreditation visit.

Mrs. Deborah Gilbert distributed copies of a spreadsheet with for the Fiscal Year 2003 Joint Legislative Budget Committee Recommendations.

Traditionally the MACJC does not meet during the month of December; however, in light of the LBO recommendations the Association voted unanimously to hold a special meeting on Thursday, December 20, 2001.

Workforce Report

George Walker gave a report on items discussed at the State Workforce Development Council (SWDC) meeting held on December 12, 2001. The SWDC expressed concern about the budget cuts for community colleges and workforce training.

The Council voted to send a letter to new Co-Chairman, Mr. Bob Rohrlack, who is also the Executive Director of the Mississippi Development Authority, urging him to attend or send a designee to the monthly meetings (Exhibit A). Mr. Walker also distributed a copy of a letter that

SBCJC Minutes: December 14, 2001

he drafted at the request of the SWDC to Mr. Jim Lott, Director of the ETD within the Mississippi Development Authority Employment Training Division, asking him to be present at the January 8, 2002, meeting (Exhibit B). Representatives from Regional Technology Strategies, Inc., the third-party subgrantee chosen to develop the SWDC's strategic plan, will attend the January Council meeting.

Mr. Walker stated that the SWDC is also concerned about how companies will fund training needs for companies that have vacancies resulting from losing employees to the Nissan plant. Workforce training funding has been drastically reduced in the Legislative Budget Office Recommendations for FY 2003. The SWDC is worried that commitments for workforce training made to companies that are coming to Mississippi cannot be fulfilled.

David Marsh asked Mr. Walker if there is a direct correlation between the number of dollars spent and the people trained for the workforce. Mr. Walker stated that those figures are available for the last fiscal year and could be calculated for the current year. Mr. Marsh suggested that the correlation might provide information that would be valuable in talking with the legislature by indicating the effect budget cuts would have on the number of individuals that could be given training in FY 2003.

Mr. Walker reported that the Federal Workforce Investment Act Regulations require that a company that receives funds for training employees must guarantee to provide those employees with a salary increase of \$3.50 per hour for the next two quarters.

Dr. George Huffman reported that at an economic development meeting in Hattiesburg concern was noted that the new Executive Director of the Mississippi Development Authority, Mr. Bob Rohrlack, always referred to the universities as delivery agents for training associated with economic development. He asked the Council to work with the colleges to ensure Mr. Rohrlack understood the two-year colleges' role in workforce training.

The SWDC voted to reauthorize a taskforce to meet with Editorial Boards across the state to highlight workforce training issues. Mr. Walker and Joe Jones, the editor of the Mississippi Business Journal, will begin the meetings around February 1, 2002. Mr. Walker stated that a schedule of the meetings would be available to SBCJC members and encouraged them to participate in those held in their local areas.

#### SBCJC, IHL and Public Education Cooperative Initiative

Mr. Walker updated SBCJC members on meetings with IHL Commissioner - Dr. Tom Layzell, State Superintendent of Education - Dr. Richard Thompson, and Chairmen of the IHL Board and State Board of Education to promote working together to provide a seamless education system for our state. These efforts have resulted in an agreement to meet monthly as a group. Mr. Walker will keep the Board informed on the results.

#### Status of Goals for FY 2002

Dr. Evelyn Webb gave an update on the SBCJC goal of calculating funding for Mississippi Virtual Community College (MSVCC) students. She reported that the goal is almost complete. A meeting was recently held where the new funding mechanism was discussed and explained to Dr. Ned Lovell's Educational Administration class at Mississippi State University as they reviewed

SBCJC Minutes: December 14, 2001

how the SBCJC funding formula works.

Dr. Webb gave an update on the SBCJC goal related to the funding structure and guidelines for off-campus locations. The SBCJC approved the fall listing of campuses at the last meeting. Dr. Webb has already requested that the colleges submit their listing for the Spring 2002, semester and it will be brought to the Board for approval later on today's agenda.

On the SBCJC goal pertaining to the e-audit process procedures, Dr. Webb reported that the process is a daily on-going process. Dr. Larry Day and the Technology Team have spent many hours developing procedures to combine virtual classes with traditional classes in the new e-audit application. Initial validation of files has been completed for the ten colleges that were not part of the pilot test program of the e-audit process. Completion of this goal will require a one-year time period for full implementation.

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher gave an update on the SBCJC goal related to implementing a quicker and more efficient delivery of GED score results to the public. Oklahoma Testing Service will be scoring the GED examination with a five-day turnaround. The results will be submitted electronically to the SBCJC GED office where diplomas and transcripts will be printed and mailed. He reminded the Board that the new GED examination will be released in January, 2002; however, it will probably be February 1, 2002, before Mississippi GED centers begin testing for 2002. All scores banked for individuals who passed parts of the old test battery will be deleted.

Dr. Stonecypher reported that the MACJC had agreed on utilizing the "MindLeaders" program to offer on-line training programs via the MSVCC. Hopefully the program will be available to the colleges, workforce training initiative, and the general public in January.

Dr. Stonecypher presented a copy of a booklet prepared by an English as a Second Language class at Jackson Public Schools. The booklet contains stories and recipes submitted by the students. This program is funded through the SBCJC.

#### Economic Outlook

Dr. Phil Pepper gave a report to the Board on the economic status and outlook for Mississippi (Exhibit C). He presented figures showing how Mississippi's economy has developed over the last few years and revenue collections. He also discussed where he thought the state's economy was headed in the next few years.

Dr. Pepper presented information on nonagricultural employment from 1970 through 2000 for the state and nation. In the last two years Mississippi has experienced the highest loss of employment in the nation. Many manufacturing companies have found markets overseas where products can be made cheaper. The companies are moving their operations from the United States to these areas. Historically many of the manufacturing jobs in Mississippi require low levels of skill and the migration of these types of jobs to overseas markets has greatly affected Mississippi. Dr. Pepper stated that between July 1999 and July 2001, Mississippi has lost approximately 27,000 jobs or 11% of the total of manufacturing in the state. Also, the manufacturing workweek length has decreased from an average of 42 hours per week in 1999 to 38 hours per week in 2001, indicating a loss of 20% in manufacturing productivity and associated wages in the state.

SBCJC Minutes: December 14, 2001

Dr. Pepper stated that manufacturing accounts for 15% of the state's entire employment; however, manufacturing is very important to rural areas of the state not driven by agriculture.

The participation rate is defined as the percentage of the people between 18 and 64 years of age that are employed or are actively seeking employment in the workforce. Since 1994 the participation rate in Mississippi has continued to decline. Dr. Pepper stated that all these factors are pointing toward the need for a major effort in the state to change the mindset of Mississippians to upgrade their skills. Mississippians should be made aware that there are opportunities open to them to upgrade their skills. Most of the 1.1 million people in Mississippi's workforce today are not receiving any upgrade in their education. Dr. Pepper presented a correlation between revenue growth and the structural change in the state's manufacturing sector.

Dr. Pepper stated that he felt Mississippi would continue to see slow growth in the economy through the rest of this decade because of our workforce. The state has not fully realized that the educational system needs to be restructured toward more adult and technical education. A large sector of Mississippi's population needs technical and skills training more than a four-year degree.

#### EdNet Report

Jimmy Murphy reported on items addressed at a special EdNet Board meeting held on November 19, 2001.

Mary Ann Franklin, Frank Spencer and Martin Mangold, along with attorneys Sam Keyes and Brooks Buchanan, met with WorldCom representatives on Friday November 7, 2001, to discuss the settlement of the existing EdNet/WorldCom contract. Mr. Spencer provided the WorldCom representatives with an overview of issues concerning EdNet's infrastructure and its inability to provide statewide service to the children and citizens of Mississippi. He called upon WorldCom to support EdNet and its educational mission by working toward a mutually agreeable settlement. Mrs. Franklin and Mr. Mangold echoed Mr. Spencer's comments and reiterated the desire to settle the contract by both parties by negotiation, as opposed to arbitration or other lengthy legal processes. Both parties agreed that negotiation as opposed to arbitration or legal process was the most desirable means to reach a settlement. Since the initial meeting, a telephone conference was conducted between EdNet staff, the engineering consultant Bob Gehman, and WorldCom engineers.

EdNet staff is gathering information that will be beneficial to WorldCom in determining the status of the existing system and the cost of completion. Staff will continue to work with WorldCom to answer programmatic and technical questions. Negotiations will continue addressing both financial and infrastructure issues.

Dr. Evelyn Webb stated that yesterday afternoon WorldCom spoke with EdNet President, Martin Mangold, and WorldCom wants to delay the release of a Request for Proposal for a new private partner inasmuch as they are interested in entering into a new contract with EdNet.

The EdNet staff is continuing to work toward a revised grant application for submission to the Hardin Foundation. Dr. Tom Waycaster of the Foundation visited with EdNet staff at length on Tuesday, October 23, to review and discuss the application. Dr. Waycaster provided

SBCJC Minutes: December 14, 2001

suggestions on how EdNet might expand the project so that it would be more beneficial to education. EdNet staff will work with Mississippi ETV, the SBCJC, SDE, and IHL to insure that this project will help meet both EdNet's and the educational partners' needs.

#### Finance Report

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Joanna Heidel, the Board voted unanimously to approve the General Fund 2298 Disbursements for January 2002 in the total amount of \$25,790,673.00 (Exhibit D).

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Lawrence Warren, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Education Enhancement Fund and Budget Contingency Fund Disbursements for December 31, 2001, from funds 3295, 4080, and 4110, in the total amount of \$2,885,097.00 (Exhibit E).

Mrs. Fox presented a worksheet showing the Joint Legislative Budget Recommendations for FY 2003 (Exhibit F).

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher provided information on the cost involved in workforce training for individuals that was requested by David Marsh earlier in the meeting. He stated that last year the SBCJC spent approximately \$12,500,000.00 on training 150,000 people that yields a training cost of approximately \$83.00 per person. If funding is cut back to \$3,600,000.00 it will result in a reduction that would eliminate training for approximately 106,000 individuals.

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Joanna Heidel, the Board voted unanimously to submit the Indirect Cost Proposal for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2003 (Exhibit G) to the U. S. Department of Education for their approval.

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Lawrence Warren, the Board voted unanimously to approve a Z-I Administration Budget Escalation for 100% Federal Funds Revision #5 to receive and expend U. S. Department of Labor WIA funds in the amount of \$536,122.00 to provide funding to four community and junior colleges in the south central Mississippi works district to provide customized training to local businesses and industry (Exhibit H).

Mrs. Fox presented financial statements for funds 2291 and 3291 for the period ending November 30, 2001 (Exhibit I). No action was required.

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Jimmy Murphy, the Board voted unanimously to approve a Z-I Administration Budget Escalation for 100% Federal Funds Revision #6 to receive and expend U. S. Department of Labor WIA funds in the amount of \$181,865.00 to add a strategic planning activity to an existing contract (Exhibit J).

Mrs. Fox presented a worksheet showing a comparison of revenues by source for FY 1992 through FY 2001 for the Board's information (Exhibit K). No action was required.

#### Program Report

Upon a motion by Joanna Heidel, and a second by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to approve a request from Hinds Community College to establish a Postsecondary

SBCJC Minutes: December 14, 2001

Welding program at the Vicksburg-Warren County Branch as an extension of an existing program at the Raymond, Utica, and Jackson Campuses.

Upon a motion by Joanna Heidel, and a second by Donald Green, the Board voted unanimously to approve a request from Jones County Junior College to establish a Diagnostic Medical Sonography Technology Program. Jones has secured a \$300,000.00 grant from the Asbury Foundation for equipment and start-up costs.

#### Approval of Location for Classes for Spring 2002 Semester

Dr. Evelyn Webb presented a listing of locations of classes for the Spring 2002 semester (Exhibit L). Upon a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Lawrence Warren, the Board voted unanimously to approve the listing of locations of classes for the Spring 2002 semester.

#### Proprietary School Report

Danny Seal updated the Board on the activities of the Commission on Proprietary Schools (CPSCR) and College Registration. Currently there are 35 schools at 104 locations under the CPSCR's jurisdiction. At the December 13, 2001, meeting the following actions were taken:

15 new instructor applications were approved.

5 agent applications were approved.

New programs of study were approved for: Virginia College – Electronics Engineering Technology, DeVry – Computer Engineering Technology, and Antonelli College – Interior Design.

Certificates of Registration were approved for: The Culinary Institute of Virginia College Birmingham, System Consultants Inc., Hnzheal Clinic and Massage School, and Biloxi Marine Training.

Mr. Seal reported that the new Mississippi Board of Massage Therapy is scheduled to begin functioning January 1, 2002. The CPSCR will still register schools of massage therapy but will closely coordinate with the new board that will license therapists.

He also reported that the requests for license application packets continue to be mainly for truck driver training. The next CPSCR meeting is set for 1:00 p.m. on February 21, 2002, at the SBCJC office.

#### Travel Authorizations

Chairman Walker asked for requests to authorize travel reimbursements for events other than regularly scheduled Board meetings. On a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Donald Green, the Board voted unanimously to approve requests for reimbursement of travel expenses for the following:

George Walker for attending a meeting at the Sun Herald on December 5, 2001, on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the MACJC meeting on December 20, 2001, in Jackson, the

SBCJC Minutes: December 14, 2001

Governor's Leadership Summit on Higher Education on January 7, 2002, and the SWDC meeting on January 9, 2002.

Any Board member who attends the Governor's Leadership Summit on Higher Education in Jackson on January 7, 2002.

Henry Hudspeth for attending the MACJC meeting in Jackson on December 20, 2001.

Jimmy Murphy for attending EdNet Board meetings in Jackson on November 19, 2001, December 17, 2001, and January 17, 2002.

#### Approval of MSVCC Exceptions and Issues Committee By-laws

Jason Pugh gave the Board an update on the MSVCC enrollment figures. This is the last date for pre-registration for the Spring 2002 semester. The regular enrollment period will be between January 3, and January 14, 2002. At this point there are 405 course offerings with approximately 6,300 enrollments.

Mr. Pugh presented a draft of the Mississippi Virtual Community College Exceptions and Issues Committee By-Laws (Exhibit M). Upon a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Brenda Collins, the Board voted unanimously to submit the Mississippi Virtual Community College Exceptions and Issues Committee By-Laws to the Secretary of State's Office to begin the Administrative Procedures process.

#### Other

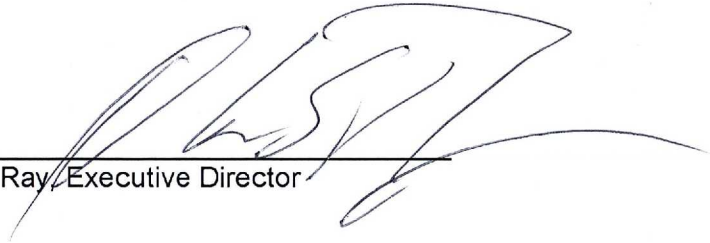
Mr. Walker complimented SBCJC staff members that attended a seminar in Greenville, Mississippi. The meeting sponsored by MDC was an excellent program and he thanked the staff for attending.

Mr. Walker called on Sara Fox to make a presentation. Mrs. Fox, serving as chairperson of the New Mothers and Grandmothers Club, asked Veldore Heidelberg to come forward and presented her with a gift on behalf of the SBCJC in honor of the birth of her son Dennis Ray Heidelberg, Jr.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m. The Board then joined SBCJC staff and former SBCJC members John Junkin, Hazel Terry, Paul Breazeale, and Patricia Puckett for a Christmas luncheon.

  
George Walker, Chairman

  
Olon E. Ray, Executive Director